

ST. A'S NEWS

Remember in prayer

Alan, Ed Baker, Barb, Bert, Bev,
Charlotte Birchard, Bob, Carol,
Christine, Debbie, Kelly DelGaizo,
John Flemming, Bill Elliott, Ellen
Gracie, Melissa Grettler, John
Griffin, Jack Grippe, Patti Havrilla,
David Holmstrom, Zack Irwin,
Eileen Kneppshield, Linda, Lisa,
Maggie, Mary, Michelle Means,
David Nicolls, Liz Pavolko, Peter,
Peggy Price, Jean Plesea, John
Reibel, John S., Lou Salzer, Terri
Sebring, Doug Trabert, Russ
Vaughn, Victoria, Sue, Brad
Webber, Sue Wendell, Sally & Tony
Williams, Disaster victims

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY greetings to:

3 Armored Gruber
12 Bill Altman
15 Cyndi Altman

O God, our times are in your hand:
Look with favor, we pray, on your
servants. as they begin another year.
Grant that they may grow in wisdom
and grace, and strengthen they trust in
your goodness all the days of their life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Thank You!

Also a big Thank You to all those who
help to bring you information on our
Facebook page, New Website, and the
Newsletter.



[The Bible Project](#)

-Outreach-

◆ **Social Knitworking/Makers:** Thursday December 4, 10am, Thursday and Tuesday December 16, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. For more information contact Pam Ostrander.

◆ Christmas gift for the Food Pantry children are to be returned by December 7. Place the unwrapped gifts in a gift bag and attach the tag to the bag. A big thank you for helping to make a happy holiday season for these families.

◆ The Safe Journey Woman's Shelter collection is ongoing. Please continue to donate gently used or new clothing, household appliances and accessories needed to help families make a new start. Collection baskets are under the Outreach Tale and your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

◆ The Episcopal Relief and Development fund helps with disaster relieve worldwide. You can find out how to help at episcopalrelief.org

-News of Note-

◆ Healing Prayer will be offered the first Sunday of the month at the altar following the service.

◆ Free Chair Yoga Classes -A gentle practice utilizing a chair for balance & support. No registration needed. Tuesday December 2nd, 9th and 16th 10:00 -11:00 a.m. You can contact Janet Stachowiak - Certified Yoga Instructor at 814.734.4594

◆ Bishop's committee meeting December 14

◆ Lessons and Carols services are at the Cathedral December 14 at 5:00 pm and St. Stephens December 21 at 4:00 pm.

◆ The Christmas Eve service will be at 3:00 pm December 24.

◆ We can always use a few more LEM's to help with the Sunday services. If you are interest in becoming a LEM please contact Fr. Dave.

◆ Keep up with what is happening at the Cathedral - [click here](#)

-A View From the Pew-

December has arrived, carrying with it the glow of Advent candles, the hush of winter nights, and the beautiful reminder that light breaks into even the darkest places. As we prepare our homes and hearts for Christmas, may we slow down and look for the quiet ways God is still stepping into the world with hope, peace, joy, and love.

This time of year, it's easy to get wrapped up in lists, schedules, and expectations. But Scripture gently calls us to remember that the very first Christmas didn't come with fanfare — it came softly, in a stable, under a sky full of stars. God didn't send a program; He sent a Person. He didn't send a message; He became the message.

If the season feels heavy for you this year — if memories ache or losses feel sharper against the backdrop of Christmas lights — know this: The same God who came to us in a manger still comes to us today, meeting us gently right where we are.

This month, may the presence of Jesus be the greatest gift we receive.

Cyndi Altman



The Lectionary

Sunday December 7

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)
[Romans 15:4-13](#)
[Matthew 3:1-12](#)
[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#)

Sunday December 14

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#)
[James 5:7-10](#)
[Matthew 11:2-11](#)
[Psalm 146:4-9](#)
 or [Canticle 15](#)

Sunday December 21

[Isaiah 7:10-16](#)
[Romans 1:1-7](#)
[Matthew 1:18-25](#)
[Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18](#)

Sunday December 24

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)
[Titus 2:11-14](#)
[Luke 2:1-14\(15-20\)](#)
[Psalm 96](#)

Sunday December 28

- [Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#)
- [Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7](#)
- [John 1:1-18](#)
- [Psalm 147 or 147:13-21](#)

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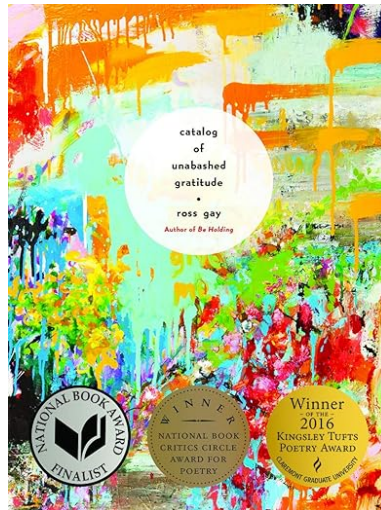
St. Augustine of Canterbury
 Episcopal Church
 and on the Web

<https://www.staugustineedinboro.org>

Let Us Pray:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with *thy* most gracious favor, and further us with *thy* continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in *thee*, we may glorify *thy* holy Name, and finally, by *thy* mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

-A Good Read-



Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude is a sustained meditation on that which goes away—loved ones, the seasons, the earth as we know it—that tries to find solace in the processes of the garden and the orchard. That is, this is a book that studies the wisdom of the garden and orchard, those places where all—death, sorrow, loss—is converted into what might, with patience, nourish us.

[Purchase on Amazon](#)

-Vicar's Note-

Advent is here and Christmas is just around the corner. Time to get busy preparing for the holiday season. You have heard it a million times to slow down, stay focused on the “reason for the season” (Jesus) and prepare your hearts for the celebration of his birth.

I know all of this sounds like a broken record and as we get older it is easy to turn down the volume on the message, but what if we look at Advent in a different way? What if we look at Advent as a journey we are on instead of set of tasks and errands we need to run.

When we prepare for a journey we take into consideration the destination, what we need along the way and who we want to take with us. When it comes to Advent the destination is Christmas, what we need to take is a humble heart emptied of fear and distractions and the most important person to take with us is Jesus. It may sound weird to say we are taking Jesus with us to celebrate his birth but if you think about it, Jesus is the one who leads us to God and Jesus is the incarnation of God so taking Jesus with us on our journey makes a lot of sense.

So this Advent try to reorient your thinking about the season from a series of tasks or events to more of a spiritual journey leading to the celebration of Jesus birth. As always, life is a journey and not just a destination.... What makes it special are the ones we share the journey with.

May the blessing of season be always with you.

Peace, Fr. Dave +